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Borough of Warwick

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1952,

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET

1953

38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

September, 1953.

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
WARWICK

Mr. MAYOR, Mrs. LEES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my third annual report upon the health of the district. This relates to the year 1952 during which the birth rate rose and the death rate fell. Other statistics bear satisfactory comparison both with the figures for England and Wales and those for the Borough in previous years. Once again no maternal death was recorded. There were small epidemics both of Measles and Whooping Cough and three cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified.

Housing has again proved a pressing problem and will clearly remain so for years to come. The report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector gives details of many aspects of this and it reveals how little progress has been possible in the clearing away of unfit houses. The council agreed during the year to clear some of the worst property in the West End and apply for a compulsory purchase order affecting 76 houses. If confirmed by the Minister this programme will have to be spread over several years. The Council has been able to build an average of some 80 new houses per year since 1945 but more than half as many again (i.e. 125-130) are needed yearly to keep pace with new applications and still more if any reduction is to be made in the average waiting period since marriage. This period is now five years for the homeless and longer for others living in unsuitable houses. The first five years of married life are those when the foundations of family life should be laid. If these years are to be spent in insanitary dwellings with few conveniences or in unhappy friction crowding into the packed homes of relations, new marriages will be put under stresses which may tend to cause postponement of childbearing until later and less fertile years.

This Council adopted a report nine years ago which revealed that about one-fifth of the houses in the Borough were unfit and irreparable and one fourth were in need of extensive reconditioning. The sale of the former category to

individual owner-occupiers and the continued neglect by the latter group of landlords have in the interval not improved the position. If money, labour and materials are to be devoted to housing improvements it is in the community's interest that the houses selected should be ones worthy of reconditioning to a reasonable standard of fitness and capable of a useful span of life thereafter. Attempts to recondition seriously defective and unfit property will usually end in the wastage of the owner's resources and perhaps pave the way to eventual hardship and loss. Action of this kind on any scale is bound later to impede the clearance of areas of unfit and insanitary dwellings amid which they will often be situated.

The rate of clearance of the old and unfit houses is clearly related to the speed with which new ones can be built or substandard homes improved. Mr. Bullock points out in his report that the number of present housing applicants is no real guide to housing standards or the total number in real housing need because many tenants of poor or overcrowded dwellings hold back finding that their purse is rationing the standard of housing which they can hope to enjoy. The Council will therefore have to consider this future demand now latent and not expressed but certain to arise when much of this class of property reaches the inevitable end of its useful life.

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector also notes the difficulty in effecting works of repair and the present disinclination of individuals to provide new homes for themselves. If these trends cannot be corrected and speedily reversed, then heavier burdens still may fall upon the broad backs of local authorities. I am sure that a review has long been needed of the property classed as unfit nearly ten years ago, and for that reason welcome the steps which you have taken of appointing a sub-committee to investigate present conditions and recommend a policy of future action.

In conclusion I have to thank members of the Council for much kindness, encouragement and support throughout the year and its officers for their friendly and unfailing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Borough of Warwick

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1952	...	...	15,510
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	17.4
" " " (corrected)	...	...	18.1
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	25.2
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	...	...	10.7
" " " (corrected)	...	...	10.4
Deaths from Diseases and { From Sepsis	...	...	—
Accidents of Pregnancy and { From Other Causes	...	...	—
Child-birth			
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	22.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	23.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

Population.—A decrease of 40 on the estimated figure for 1951.

Birth Rate.—The figure is close to the average of the past 7 years (17.9) and rate for England and Wales which is 15.3.

Death Rate.—This is slightly under the average for 9 past years (11.3) and similar to that for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.—This at 22.2 was above last year's figure of 12.8 per 1,000 births and below the average for England and Wales viz. 27.6. For 1945 and each subsequent year the infant death rate has been below the rate for England and Wales.

Statistics for the past seven years and also for England and Wales in 1950 will be seen under Table II.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WARWICK

Medical Officer of Health :

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

J. BULLOCK,

Cert. R.S.I. & S.I. Exam. Jt. Board.

Cert. R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and Foods.

Cert. Institute of Housing.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

S. H. WEST,

Cert. R.S.I. & S.I. Exam. Jt. Board.

Cert. R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and Foods.

Cert. R.S.I. for Smoke Inspectors.

Borough Engineer, Surveyor and Waterworks Engineers :

R. WORMELL, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E., A.M.T.P.I.

Public Analysts :

HILL and RIGBY, Birmingham.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA*Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria ...	—	9	9
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	1
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
			<hr/> 10 <hr/>

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

I am indebted to Mr. Wormell, the Borough Engineer, for much of the following information :—

1. *Water Supply.*—The rainfall for the year was slightly below the yearly average, but supplies were maintained from the main source at Haseley coupled with the subsidiary pumping well at Woodloes. During the middle of the summer it was considered expedient to issue economy notices. The quantity consumed during the year was 240,705,300 gallons, or 40 gallons per head per day.

Regular bacteriological analyses of both the raw water and chlorinated water from the town mains were made and all reports were satisfactory.

Seventeen houses only are served by private wells. The number of houses with shared taps is 325 ; 135 taps, either on standpipes or in common washhouses serve these houses which are occupied by approximately 7 per cent. of the population.

2. (i) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—Early in the year work was commenced on the construction of the new low level outfall sewer and scheduled progress was maintained throughout the year. No other extensions to the sewerage system were made.

As a complement of the new outfall sewer, two new storm overflow tanks and the appropriate pumping machinery are in course of construction. The scheme when completed will relieve considerably the treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works.

(ii) *Rivers and Streams*.—The scheme prepared for Gog Brook in 1951 was successfully carried out and included the construction of a new culvert under the racecourse running track. The work was extended to include Fishers Brook for its whole length fronting the Forbes Estate, from Gog Brook, Hampton Road, to Fishers Brook, Stratford Road. In this way the flow of these two brooks was considerably freed and no overflowing of the banks was recorded.

(iii) Sanitary fittings provided at existing buildings during the year were as follows :—

<i>Type</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>New W.C.s</i>	<i>Lav. Basins</i>	<i>Urinals</i>
Factories ...	5	6	10	5
Licensed ... Houses	1	1	1	—
Schools ...	1	13	1	—
Private ... Houses	9	12	10	—
Offices ...	1	3	3	—

(iv) *Public Cleansing*.—The usual collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year.

The refuse tip was kept in good order notwithstanding some labour shortage and covering control was assisted by the use of surplus soil from the excavations for the new storm tanks at the adjoining Sewage Disposal Works.

(v) *Swimming Baths*.—The open air baths, open to the public during the summer months, continued to be treated by the “Chloramine” process of sterilization in conjunction with a small filter. The water is of continuous flow.

D. HOUSING

During the year nine licences for the erection of new privately-owned houses were issued and five houses were completed and occupied in addition to eight others for which licences had been issued during the previous year.

Council house building progressed at a slower rate than in 1951. Seventy-four houses, including twenty-four flats, were completed and occupied.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1944.

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1944	...	13	14	—	23	—	—
1945	...	—	21	—	10	—	—
1946	...	3	4	—	8	—	—
1947	...	1	12	—	14	—	1
1948	...	—	10	—	5	—	—
1949	...	—	10	—	3	—	—
1950	...	1	9	1	6	—	—
1951	...	3	4	1	14	1	1
1952	...	—	7	—	3	3	11

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1952.

This year the number of notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia was higher than usual and was due to an alteration in the statutory regulations and definition.

School Closures.—Nil.

Diphtheria.—No cases were notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation of children against Diphtheria continued. During 1952 23 school children were protected for the first time, together with 174 under school age, giving a total of 197. 247 children were given "Booster" doses during the year with a view to maintaining their immunity. These figures were lower than those for 1951 as the occurrence of Poliomyelitis caused some interruption.

The aim in this work is to secure the immunisation of at least 75 per cent. of all babies before their first birthday. The Borough of Warwick's percentage for 1951 appears to be around 50 per cent. Every child should be immunised before its first birthday. The local Health Authority's scheme provides for this to be done free either by the family doctor under the National Health Service or at either of the Child Welfare centres.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—Three cases were notified and there was one death.

The fatal case was a man of 25 years of age. He was an operative at a local factory and took ill on December 10th, dying two days later. The source of infection was not traced and no other case appeared to arise by contact, either in the home or at his place of work.

The other two were both children. One was a girl aged six who took ill on 12th October and later developed paralysis in one arm and both legs being admitted to Warwick Hospital on 22nd October. Some residual weakness of the legs was left by the disease.

The other child, a boy aged 3½ years, resided in Leamington and took ill on 27th October, being admitted to Warwick Hospital on 5th November 1952. Here the diagnosis of non-paralytic Poliomyelitis was made and he was accordingly notified. No connection could be traced between this child and the other one.

Measles.—Measles was prevalent this year and 61 cases were recorded.

Whooping Cough.—68 notifications came in during 1952. Of these 4 were infants under one year and 3 were adults.

During the year the County Council began a trial of a new Whooping Cough Vaccine and later this was brought into general use as part of the Local Health Authority's scheme under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act 1946. It will be of great interest to mark the future trend and severity of Whooping Cough after the scheme has been in force for some time. Meanwhile enquiry will be made after every notification as to whether the patient has had prophylactic injections or not.

Typhoid Fever.—No cases have occurred. One Typhoid Carrier has, however, been under periodic observation, having had positive stool cultures since discharge from the Army in 1949.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Tuberculous Milk Investigations.—Routine milk samples were taken by authorized officers of the County Council within the Borough and sent for biological examination. No positive results were obtained from samples taken as follows :—

	<i>No. of samples</i>
Pasteurized Milk	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Accredited or Ungraded Milk ...	7

Therefore it was unnecessary to take any special action during the year with regard to infected milk.

TUBERCULOSIS

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 ...	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45-55 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	14	13	4	1	1	—	—	—

During the year 32 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 27 being Pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. This is an increase of 10 over last year.

21 patients were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium, and 15 were discharged during the year. Only one death occurred.

The following table gives the incidence of Tuberculosis for the period 1933-1952 (20 years) :—

<i>Tuberculosis.</i>	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Cases ...	25	12	14	24	21	20	32
Deaths	16	9	5	12	6	7	8

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Cases ...	27	22	12	11	38	29	20
Deaths	9	13	10	13	11	12	9
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	
Cases ...	31	20	20	21	22	32	
Deaths	8	14	6	6	8	1	

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

This Act provides inter alia for assistance to be given by the National Assistance Board to persons in need, for the provision of accommodation and welfare services by County Councils and for the registration of homes for disabled persons and the aged. Section 47 of this Act was designed to secure necessary care and attention for persons who—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

If the Medical Officer of Health gives a written certificate in the prescribed form, the local authority may apply to a court, having jurisdiction for an order to remove the person to a suitable and convenient place e.g. hospital. Seven days clear notice must be given of the intended application and it must also be given to the person managing the premises. The order, if granted, may authorize a person's detention for a period not exceeding three months. A later amendment provides that upon the written report of the medical officer of health and another medical practitioner, the case may in emergency be heard before the court or a single magistrate without the giving of seven days clear notice. An order granted in this way will have effect only for a short period. The council has authorized me to act in accordance with the aforesaid procedure but to date no removal order has been requested from the Court. Several cases were investigated during the year but all were resolved without the use of these statutory procedures. In one case an elderly casual labourer aged about 65 years was found to be seriously ill with Acute Bronchitis in a dilapidated wooden shed behind some farm outbuildings where he had worked for some years. This man at first refused to be moved but, after a good deal of persuasion, he was taken to hospital the same evening. His own doctor had that morning called for an ambulance but the patient had refused to enter the vehicle. He made a good recovery in ten to fourteen days and then entered Part III Welfare Accommodation in another part of the county.

REPORT OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Council of the Borough of Warwick

Mr. MAYOR, Mrs. LEES and GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

Inspections and re-inspections of all classes totalled 4,903, compared with 4,801 in 1951 and 5,025 in 1950.

It will be seen from Table I that the high annual figure for inspections of dwellinghouses was maintained and that work in connection with food hygiene, pest destruction and Shops Act administration was continued on the intensified scale adopted during the last few years.

As in previous years, housing inspections for the Selection of Tenants Sub-committee again occupied a great deal of time, but as these were closely related to other statutory housing duties with which the department is concerned they were readily combined with the normal housing work.

HOUSING

Nineteen houses which had become dangerously dilapidated were represented under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as unfit for habitation. Demolition orders were made in respect of eighteen of these, consideration of the remaining case being postponed until ownership could be clearly established. Four houses were demolished as a result of informal procedure and nine under the terms of demolition orders made in earlier years. Six families were rehoused by the local authority from houses subject to demolition orders, the remainder securing privately owned accommodation. One demolition order was the subject of an appeal to the County Court but the Council's action was confirmed, the appeal being dismissed and costs awarded to the respondents.

Towards the end of the year a compulsory purchase order was made in respect of a clearance area comprising 76 houses situate in Friars Street, Chapel Court, Friars Court, Monk Street, Crompton Row and Crompton Street. Of areas of comparable size in the town, this contains the greatest preponderance of unfit houses. Although re-housing will necessarily be spread over several years, action embracing the area as a whole was considered desirable, particularly as there are fairly frequent tenancy changes and, in the absence of a confirmed order, no adequate steps can be taken to prevent the reletting of totally unfit houses which are numerous in this area. The Public Inquiry was awaited at the end of the year.

If confirmed this first post-war clearance order will permit an appreciable advance to be made in raising the standard of housing in the town by the removal of unfit houses. As, however, there are upwards of 800 houses considered unfit for habitation on any long-term basis, admittedly not all of the low standard as are those in the area now being dealt with, the demolition of the 76 houses involved and

a few others already subject to demolition orders in other parts of the town will amount to only ten per cent. of the programme envisaged. Although there are no indications that the magnitude of the problem has been lessened in the intervening years, a review of the findings of the Sub-Committee appointed in 1945 to study the results of the survey then made is now considered necessary and a further Sub-committee of the Public Health and Housing Committee was appointed for this purpose in November, 1952. Its principal purpose will be to assess the relative need for action in respect of properties listed eight years ago and to formulate a programme based upon the degree of urgency indicated by individual blocks of property. Although it should be possible to place the properties considered ripe for demolition in a proper sequence for action, it is not expected that the actual timing of such action will be possible at this stage as this entirely depends upon the availability of replacement dwellings. In this connection the immediate prospects give rise to disquiet in view of the serious reduction in the number of new houses being completed of which only twenty per cent. are allocated for rehousing occupants of unfit houses.

HOUSING REPAIRS

In view of their high cost, repairs to old property were again limited to urgent work. The continued operation of the Rents Restriction Acts, coupled with still further increases in the cost of labour and materials, in many cases charges for the modest repairs called for appear exorbitant when compared with the rent income. In consequence, repairs to remedy some defects which would normally be made the subject of notices without hesitation were not immediately enforced when it was known that the owner had already spent an undue proportion of the rent income on repairs in recent years. The effect of this consideration, however, has been to increase the number of re-inspections and notices for comparatively small repairs. A preliminary notice calling for comprehensive repairs at a rent-controlled house is now rarely complied with in one process; usually an agreement has to be reached by which the most urgent defects are first remedied and lengthy periods allowed between successive instalments of work necessary to discharge the notice. In view of these difficulties and the over-riding condition governing the Repairs Sections of the Housing Act that repairs shall be capable of being carried out at a reasonable expense, statutory notices, where served, were issued under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. Works of general reconditioning cannot, however, be made the subject of notices authorised under the Public Health Act and in consequence very few houses were repaired on an adequate scale during the year under review.

In relation to better class houses, capable of providing good accommodation for many years to come, intimation notices forwarded to owners usually stated defects which should be remedied in the interests of good maintenance and to preserve the property as a future investment. It was pleasing to observe that not a few owners of this type of property, the larger terrace-type houses built towards the end of the last century, in spite of high costs responded to requests for extensive repairs found necessary in the course of house-to-house inspections. The repairs undertaken included a considerable amount of re-pointing of brickwork and repainting of woodwork.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING

Fifty new houses and 24 new flats were occupied during the year. They form part of the new estate off Stratford Road now known as Forbes Estate. At the end of the year the local authority owned 1,008 houses (including 50 prefabricated bungalows) and 48 flats, or in total 23.8 per cent. of the dwellings in the Borough. In all, 84 families, with a population of 258, were rehoused during 1952.

Of the families formerly in rooms, 46 were rehoused in new houses or flats, four in houses erected prior to 1939 and 11 in prefabricated bungalows. Twelve families formerly occupying old houses were rehoused in new houses, two in pre-1939 houses and four in prefabricated bungalows. In addition, five families from houses subject to demolition orders were rehoused, two new houses, two pre-1939 and one prefabricated bungalow being allocated for the purpose. One family was rehoused on the grounds of tuberculosis. To promote the fuller use of municipal accommodation numerous transfers were effected during the year and a particularly high proportion of the prefabricated bungalows figured in this process.

In the seven years since the end of 1945, 535 families, comprising 2,093 persons, have been rehoused, but during the same period there have been 1,388 applications, 173 of these being registered during 1952. Though quite a number of applications are cancelled, either at the request of the applicants or upon instructions from the Selection of Tenants Sub-committee, the majority are found to be genuinely made and experience shows that three out of every four have eventually to be satisfied. The rate of new applications during the last three years has been remarkably constant, averaging 172 per year, and, assuming that 75 per cent must be satisfied by the local authority, 125 to 130 new units are required annually to keep pace with the rate of new applications and considerably more if the average waiting period is to be reduced substantially. It will be seen that new building during 1952 fell very much short of this annual requirement and in consequence the average waiting period is for the time being lengthened.

At the 31st December there were 820 applications outstanding, 445 being in rooms or otherwise without a house and 375 in houses. Most of the latter were occupying overcrowded and/or unfit dwellings. Of the 445 applications from homeless people, 192 were from childless couples, 169 from applicants with one child, 61 from those with two children, 17 from applicants with three children and six from applicants with four or more children. Of the homeless, the average waiting period since marriage was five years and considerably longer in the case of applicants occupying houses unsuitable for their needs.

As has been stated in previous reports, the number of housing applicants falls far short of the total of new houses needed, as the figure includes only a small proportion of the tenants of houses which must be demolished to bring about a substantial improvement in the general standard of houses in the town. Numerous cases of overcrowding, too, do not figure in the register of applicants.

Investigations of bad housing conditions continue to show that the rent problem is the principal factor deterring many people who are forced to live in grossly sub-standard accommodation from applying for municipal houses. Except for this deterrent, there would be a flood of applications, and claims based upon need would be irresistible as the conditions under which these people live are very often far worse than those of others who are rehoused by reason of long standing applications.

On the other hand the readiness with which some people make real sacrifices to secure a good home was again observed and during the year under review it was noticeable that not a few selected applicants whose means indicated that they could barely afford the rent of a new house eagerly accepted tenancies and thereafter took steps to ensure that the rent was paid promptly. In view of the fact that this proper attitude to the personal cost of housing is evident in the majority of applicants it is surprising that remarkably few of those disclosing incomes higher than the average expressed a desire to own their own houses. The number of applicants for building licences from people on the register for municipal accommodation was disappointingly small. While restricted choice of sites, unstable building costs, limited opportunities for individual design at a reasonable cost, and prolonged delays in the process of building may all be factors influencing this apparent unwillingness to help themselves, true reasons must be more fundamental than these and are probably to be found in questions directly concerned with individual security. The high subsidy benefitting municipal tenants and its possible effect in deterring potential house owners from building dwellings at full cost to themselves cannot be overlooked, however, when the reason is being sought as to why some people prefer to remain on the list for municipal accommodation though it is obvious that others less favourably placed have by their own endeavours ceased to be applicants. These questions will assume an importance greater than their immediate significance when the allocation of land to the north of the town for private building purposes is being considered. The present indications are that little relief will be afforded to the local authority in reducing the size of the waiting list for municipal accommodation, excessive for a small town, unless there is a far greater demand for sites by people actually on the housing register than is so far apparent.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT INSPECTIONS

Three-thousand-five-hundred-and-seventy-seven inspections were made for the purposes of the Public Health Act.

As in previous years, most of the 548 Public Health Act notices issued related to dwelling house defects of a general nature and were limited to urgent matters. In 33 cases it was necessary to serve statutory notices and it was found necessary to institute proceedings to enforce one notice.

DRAINAGE, SANITARY ACCOMMODATION, WASHING ACCOMMODATION AND REFUSE RECEPTACLES

One-hundred-and-twelve notices requiring choked drains to be cleared or defective drains to be repaired were complied with; 57 notices requiring repairs to water-closets received attention; 20 washhouses were rebuilt or repaired in compliance with notices; 24 dustbins required by notices were provided and 90 accumulations of refuse were removed following notices.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one common lodging house in use. The return of lodgers sleeping in the town during the year is as follows :—

Adults :—				
Males	...	...	...	7,175
Females	...	...	...	364
				Total 7,539
Under 10 years	...	...	None	

VERMIN INFESTATIONS

Rats and Mice.—Systematic investigations to ascertain infestations were continued. During the year the Department dealt with infestations, principally of a minor character at 41 dwellinghouses, 28 factories, 33 shops, 9 clubs and licensed premises, 8 schools, 9 hotels and cafes, 4 office premises, 19 allotments and plots of land and 6 streams. In addition, 15 visits were made to hospitals and 10 visits to places of entertainment concerning infestations.

Work was undertaken at 14 premises on an annual contract basis. The Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works were treated regularly and the sewers twice during the year. Seven surveys of blocks of properties were carried out.

Bed Bugs.—Complaints of bed bug infestations were again noticeably fewer than was usual a few years ago, though infestations persist in certain blocks of old and unfit property. Apart from issuing insecticide to numerous applicants, the Department treated 45 houses successfully. Three lots of verminous bedding were disinfected or destroyed. Thorough precautions to prevent infestations of new houses and flats were adopted in all cases where the tenants of infested houses were rehoused in municipal houses.

SMOKE NUISANCES

The number of observations of industrial chimneys was again increased and 10 notices were served when excessive atmospheric pollution was observed. As in previous years, managements were interviewed and firing methods discussed with both stokers and managements. It was noticeable that the installation of "underfeed stokers" at certain factories practically eliminated the nuisance from "black" smoke previously created at such factories. The atmospheric pollution in the vicinity of the Gas Works did not materially improve.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT PUBLIC HOUSES AND PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

The sanitary accommodation at the cinema was inspected and here, and at licensed premises generally, the facilities were found to be of a good standard and well maintained.

CARAVANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Six inspections for the purposes of Sections 268 and 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were made. Five notices requiring owners to discontinue the use of unlicensed sites for caravan purposes were issued, and in three instances, statutory notices were subsequently served. One licence permitting the stationing of caravans was granted.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Improvements were made to the sanitary accommodation at two factories. These included the provision of two new water-closets and one urinal. The washing facilities were improved at one factory.

Outworkers lists received from employers showed that only three persons were employed as such in the Borough.

The register now includes 124 factories, 96 having mechanical power (at which local authorities' duties are limited to the enforcement of Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937), 18 without mechanical power and 10 other premises to which the Factories Act applies.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One business in the Borough has been registered as required by the above Act, and regular inspections are made of the premises.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Systematic inspections of shops continued and many of the notices outstanding from the previous year were complied with during the year under review. The following improvements were made at shops during the year: Sanitary accommodation improved at one shop; improved washing facilities (including in many instances the provision of geysers) at 16 shops; improved ventilation at 9 shops; additional seats for staff at 7 shops. Other contraventions were remedied at 21 shops. Certificates of exemption from the necessity to provide sanitary accommodation are now in operation at five shops.

TERMINAL DISINFECTION

Seventeen houses were disinfected following removal of patients to hospital or at the request of occupiers, and three lots of infected bedding were disinfected or destroyed, apart from that treated in situ. Eleven investigations were made following the notifications of infectious diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Registers.—The following make up the current registers:—

Milk distributors	...	...	...	...	20
Dairies other than farms	...	...	...	...	7

DAIRIES

All dairies were inspected regularly during the year and were maintained at a good standard. Washing facilities for the staff were improved at one establishment.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences were in operation during the year:—

Dealers' Licences to use the designation	
" Tuberculin Tested " ...	8
" Pasteurised " ...	9
Supplementary Licences to use the designation	
" Tuberculin Tested " ...	3
" Pasteurised " ...	3

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR " SELF-SUPPLIERS " OF MEAT

Ten pigs and three sheep were inspected.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AT RETAILERS' SHOPS

Four-hundred-and-seventy-seven visits were made to shops and food stores for food inspections and the enforcement of other provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and Byelaws made thereunder. Food found to be unfit for human consumption weighed 19cwts. 3qrs. 11lbs.

The enforcement of Sections 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act and of Byelaws made under Section 15 of that Act, all of which concern the suitability of premises for food preparation and personal hygiene in relation to the manufacture, storage and sale of foodstuffs, continued to occupy a good deal of time. Substantial improvements have been effected at many premises and, once again, particular attention was given to the provision of a constant supply of hot water at premises where food is handled.

Attention was directed to the need for strict cleanliness at food premises and in 23 instances, manufacturers or retailers were required to improve matters in this respect. In addition, 19 traders were required to provide protection for food displayed in the open air. In 24 other instances retailers were cautioned regarding the possibility of contamination through the placing of food in unsuitable positions, particularly on or near the ground, and they were required to take steps to obviate the risks. This enforcement action arose from failure to ensure that the Byelaws relating to the need for protection from dirt, dust, insects, animals, etc., were properly observed.

In all, 121 notices were issued and at the end of the year, 72 had been complied with.

One cafe was closed during the year, following representations to the occupier concerning the need for considerable improvement and alteration of the premises.

The following is a summary of the principal improvements made during the year :—

Restaurants, Cafes, Canteens and Snack Bars.—New washing facilities provided at four; additional sanitary accommodation at one; redecorations at six; improved food storage facilities at one.

Butchers', Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops.—Structural improvements at four; four shops redecorated; improved washing facilities at seven.

Greengrocers' Shops.—New washing facilities at one; additional sanitary accommodation at one.

Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops.—New washing facilities at one; redecorations at one.

Sugar Confectionery Shops.—New washing facilities at one; two shops redecorated.

Hotels and Boarding Houses.—Improved washing facilities at two; ventilation improved at one; improved sanitary accommodation at one; redecorations at two.

Grocers' Shops and General Shops Retailing Grocery.—Two shops redecorated.

Market Stalls and Mobile Canteens.—These were inspected regularly, particular attention being given to the protection of foodstuffs. Canteens and Food Stalls at Warwick Mop and the Race-course were inspected, and arrangements have now been made whereby no food vendor is allowed to attend the Mop unless his vehicle or stall has been approved.

Ice-cream Premises and Vendors.—Nine premises from which ice-cream is sold were registered (in three cases following the issue of cautions for trading without prior registration); there are now 53

premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. Improvements of a general nature were carried out at 24 premises. The vehicles and equipment of mobile vendors were subject to inspection and in two instances ice-cream sales were discontinued from unsatisfactory tricycles following representations to the retailers concerned.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Fifteen licences to slaughter or stun animals were granted.

RESULT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS DURING THE YEAR

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Notice Served Under</i>	<i>Result</i>
No. 24, Brook Street	Dilapidated house	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	Abatement Order made ; owner fined £3.
No. 1, Chapel Court	Appeal against a Demolition Order made under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936		Appeal dismissed ; appellant ordered to pay costs to the Council.

CONCLUSION

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their ready co-operation in seeking to raise the standard of environmental conditions with which I am concerned and, in particular, for their willingness to take all practicable steps for the advancement of housing conditions and the achievement of a high standard in food hygiene. In these two principal divisions of the work of a local health department the Council's progressive policy is greatly appreciated.

I desire also to thank chief officers of other departments for helpful co-operation and members of my staff for willingness to meet any increased demands upon the office and for excellent services throughout the year.

Your obedient servant,

J. BULLOCK,
Senior Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Warwick.

TABLE I

BOROUGH OF WARWICK

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR, 1952

				Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after noitce.
					Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...			2511	21	339	274
Lodging Houses	...	...	...	3	—	2	—
Factories	...	...	...	34	—	6	5
Licensed Premises		...	...	10	—	2	1
Canal Boats	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Water-closets	...	...	...	115	4	54	56
Drainage	...	...	...	101	7	111	111
Water Supply	...	...	...	34	—	4	6
Places of Entertainment			...	6	—	2	—
Caravans	...	...	...	6	3	5	5
Dustbins	...	...	...	101	—	14	23
Deposits of Refuse		...	...	29	—	76	91
Pigsties	...	...	...	11	1	3	—
Vermin Infestations		...	...	964	—	6	6
Shops	...	...	...	108	—	29	35
Animals improperly kept	...		...	11	1	5	4
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	59	—	10	9
Dairies and Milk Shops	...		...	—	—	2	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	5	—	4	2
Slaughter Houses, Butchers' and other Retail Food Shops	...			477	1	58	22
Occasional Slaughter on Private Premises	...	...	...	9	—	—	—
Premises used for Food Preparation				197	1	37	29
Ice-Cream Premises and Vehicles				67	1	16	16
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...		...	20	—	23	7
Hotels	...	...	...	15	—	2	3
TOTALS				4903	40	810	707

							No.
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Lots of Infected Bedding, Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ Disinfested for Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
New houses and flats treated with insecticide as a precautionary measure	...	...	...	...	...	...	74

J. BULLOCK, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1952 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1946	14,310	304	21.2	11	36	157	11.0
1947	14,470	304	21.0	11	36	157	10.9
1948	15,550	281	18.1	7	25	144	9.3
1949	15,170	244	16.1	4	16	152	10.0
1950	15,360	241	15.7	5	20.8	176	11.5
1951	15,550	235	15.1	3	12.8	189	12.2
1952	15,510	270	17.4	6	22.2	166	10.7

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1952.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1952.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	15.3	0.35	11.3	27.6
160 Great Towns, including London			16.9	0.43	12.1	31.2
160 Smaller Towns	...	...	15.5	0.36	11.2	25.8
London	...	...	17.6	0.34	12.6	23.8

TABLE III.

BOROUGH OF WARWICK

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1952.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox ... ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague ... ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Group) ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas 	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever 	7	.....	2	4	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Typhus Fever ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia 	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	7
Malaria ... ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery ... ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11	.....	.....	.....	7	4	.....	.....	10	.....
Meningococcal Infection ...	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	3	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	1
Whooping Cough 	68	4	36	25	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles 	61	3	42	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	27	.....	1	1	7	13	3	2	.....	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	.....	1	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning ... ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals 	190	8	86	49	15	22	8	2	15	9

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF WARWICK.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1952.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Tuberculosis respiratory	1	—
2 Tuberculosis other	—	1
3 Syphilitic disease	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	1	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	8	3
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
16 Diabetes	—	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	12	14
18 Coronary disease, angina	21	11
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	3
20 Other heart disease	6	9
21 Other circulatory disease	9	6
22 Influenza	—	—
23 Pneumonia	2	5
24 Bronchitis	5	2
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	—	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	3	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	8	3
33 Motor vehicle accidents	2	—
34 All other accidents	—	3
35 Suicide	—	1
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All Causes	97	69

